

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 165

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 1999

Received

NOVEMBER 19, 1999

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing United States policy toward the Slovak Republic.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*

2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Elections held in May 1999 brought the
2 first ever popularly elected President of the Slovak
3 Republic to office and demonstrated the commitment
4 of the Slovak people to full economic reforms, demo-
5 cratic government, and western ideals.

6 (2) The parliamentary elections held in Sep-
7 tember 1998 brought to office a coalition govern-
8 ment in the Slovak Republic which has shown its
9 commitment to economic reforms through economic
10 austerity measures approved in May 1999, increased
11 foreign investments through privatization of markets
12 that were formerly state controlled, and discipline in
13 government and currency policies.

14 (3) The Government of the Slovak Republic
15 formed after the elections of September 1998 has re-
16 newed efforts to ensure the proper treatment of its
17 citizens, regardless of ethnic background, including
18 those of ethnic Hungarian background through the
19 placement of three ethnic Hungarians in the cabinet
20 of the Government (including the Deputy Premier
21 for Human and Minority Rights), and through the
22 passage of the Minority Language Use Act on July
23 10, 1999, in accordance with European Union guide-
24 lines, which will take effect on September 1, 1999,
25 to protect the rights of all citizens.

1 (4) The Government of the Slovak Republic has
2 made Slovakia's integration into pan-European and
3 trans-Atlantic institutions, including the European
4 Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
5 (NATO), the highest foreign policy priority, and
6 through active participation with the Visegrad Four,
7 the Slovak Republic has undertaken efforts to pro-
8 mote stability in the region.

9 (5) The Government of the Slovak Republic has
10 stated its continuing support for the mission of
11 NATO in supporting democratization and stability
12 across Europe, and the Government demonstrated
13 its commitment to these principles by fully cooper-
14 ating with NATO during the recent conflict in
15 Kosovo, allowing NATO full access to Slovak air-
16 space, highways, and railways.

17 (6) The Slovak Republic subsequently provided
18 military engineers to assist the peacekeeping force of
19 NATO in Kosovo (KFOR), approved a \$2,000,000
20 humanitarian aid package for Kosovo, and housed
21 over 100 refugees from the conflict.

22 (7) The Government of the Slovak Republic has
23 continually worked to retain civilian control of its
24 military through participation with NATO forces

1 and has been an active participant in the Partner-
2 ship-for-Peace program.

3 (8) The Slovak Republic has provided military
4 personnel for participation in and support of multi-
5 national peacekeeping operations such as the United
6 Nations operations in Rwanda and Liberia.

7 **SEC. 2. POLICY TOWARD THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC.**

8 It is the policy of the United States—

9 (1) to promote the development in the Slovak
10 Republic of a market-based economy and a demo-
11 cratic government that respects the rights of all of
12 its citizens, regardless of ethnic background; and

13 (2) to support the eventual integration of the
14 Slovak Republic into pan-European and trans-Atlan-
15 tic economic and security institutions.

16 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

17 It is the sense of the Congress that—

18 (1) the Government of the Slovak Republic
19 formed after the elections of September 1998 is to
20 be commended—

21 (A) for its efforts to address the issue of
22 proper treatment of its citizens, regardless of
23 ethnic background, particularly those of ethnic
24 Hungarian background;

1 (B) for its efforts to improve the economic
2 situation in the Slovak Republic and for its ef-
3 forts to accelerate the privatization of state-
4 owned enterprises in a fair and transparent
5 process; and

6 (C) for its support for the North Atlantic
7 Treaty Organization (NATO) in the recent con-
8 flict in Kosovo;

9 (2) the Government of the Slovak Republic
10 should continue to implement programs that may
11 qualify the Slovak Republic for entrance into the
12 European Union and NATO and is to be com-
13 mended for its continued support of the NATO ef-
14 fort to ensure stability and democratization across
15 Europe; and

16 (3) the United States should support efforts for
17 the eventual integration of the Slovak Republic into
18 pan-European and trans-Atlantic institutions and
19 should view such integration as an important factor
20 in consolidating democratic government and eco-
21 nomic stability in the Slovak Republic.

Passed the House of Representatives November 16,
1999.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.